GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:279
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Promotion of Hybrid Seeds
Kachhadia Shri Naranbhai

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to promote various varieties of refined hybrid seeds for diverse agricultural climatic areas in order to tackle the global climate change which has an adverse impact on cultivation and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the manner in which these hybrid seeds are likely to prove helpful in tackling the problems arising out of global climate change?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) and (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) and (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 279 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21/03/2017 REGARDING
"PROMOTION OF HYBRID SEEDS"

(a) Yes, Madam. The development of hybrids in various field and horticultural crops is a continuous process and issue of global climate change is being addressed while developing and evaluating the new varieties and hybrids. In ICAR the hybrid development programme is in operation in crops like rice, wheat, maize, pearl millet, sorghum, pigeonpea, mustard, castor, sunflower, safflower, cotton and various vegetable crops. The research and development activities of hybrids/varieties development and evaluation are coordinated by the All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) of respective crops which have sufficient number of locations in different agro-ecological zones of the country. Testing of the material is done under various situations like early and late sown (temperature), rainfed, salinity conditions etc. which are the components of climate change. As these materials are being tested under the target environment, hence only better performing material is considered for further promotion during evaluation process which are finally released for commercial cultivation. During 2013-2016 total 130 hybrids have been released in different field crops viz., Rice (25), Pearl millet (25), Sorghum (9), Maize (52), Cotton (8), Pigeonpea (2), Sunflower (5), Safflower (1), Castor (2) and forage crop (1). In addition 148 hybrids have been released in different vegetable crops during the past. Seed of these hybrids including other popular hybrids released earlier is being produced for commercial cultivation in diverse agro-climatic conditions prone to various biotic and abiotic stresses.

(b) The hybrids in general have better resilience to climate changes. As hybrids generally have 10-20 per cent higher yields over the prevailing popular varieties of respective crops, hence, hybrids are higher yielder in comparison to the varieties and are doing better in all the crops where hybrids are available. As far as the issue of global climate change is concerned, the evaluation of hybrids is done in target environment, hence, these are supposed to be better performer under the changing climatic conditions.

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